Organization has taken decision to use such drugs for prevention of mother to child transmission in the country.

Wastage of blood in Hospitals

†4125. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "*Aspatalon mein har saal barbad ho jata hai ek lakh unit rakt*", which appeared in the *Rashtriya Sahara*, dated the 26th March, 2002;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the hurdles in installing the equipments for proper storage of blood and separating its contents alongwith the details of the steps taken by Government to remove them; and

(d) whether Government would make the testing of the blood mandatory before transfusion of blood into patients so that transfusion of contaminated blood could be avoided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and(c) the figures quoted in the report on magnitude of wastage of blood is not based on facts. However, the Government as a policy has been promoting rational use of blood by setting up Blood Component Separation Units (BCSUs) all over the country. In Phase-I (1992—99) of National AIDS Control Programme (NACP) the Government has assisted in the modernisation/setting up of 40 BCSUs in the country and in Phase-II another 41 centres have been identified. Guidelines on rational use of blood have been circulated and equipments are being procured for the 41 BCSUs under NACP Phase-II.

(d) It is already mandatory to test the blood for Transfusion Transmitted Infections such as HIV, HCV, Hbs. Ag, VDRL and malaria parasite.

Revision of rates for reimbursing the medical expenses for CGHS Employees

4126. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are still reimbursing the medical expesnes incurred by CGHS employees/retired pensioners on the basis of rates fixed in 1996 for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi